

Application Serial No. 10/716,905
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner's allowance of claims 12-16 and the Examiner's indication of the allowability of the subject matter of claim 6 are respectfully acknowledged.

Allowed claim 12 has been amended only to more broadly recite that the scan optical system uses an image pickup device (rather than a CCD sensor), and new claim 17 (depending from allowed claim 12) has been added to recite that the image pickup device comprises a CCD sensor. It is respectfully submitted that no new issues with respect to patentability have been raised, and that allowed claims 12-16 remain in condition for allowance and that new claim 17 is also in condition for allowance based on its dependence from allowed claim 12.

In addition, claim 1 has been amended to recite the allowable subject matter of claim 6 and intervening claim 5 from which claim 6 formerly depended. In amending claim 1, various amendments have been made to more positively recite the "structure" of the scan optical system and the control section, as well as to make grammatical improvements and to correct

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antecedent basis problems so as to put claim 1 better form for issuance in a U.S. patent. No new matter has been added, and no new issues with respect to patentability have been raised.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 1 is also in condition for allowance.

Still further, claims 2, 4, 7, 8, 10 and 11 have also been amended to make some grammatical improvements and to correct some antecedent basis problems so as to put them in better form for issuance in a U.S. patent. No new matter has been added, and no new issues with respect to patentability have been raised. And it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-4, 7, 8, 10 and 11 are also in condition for allowance based on their dependence from allowable amended claim 1.

Finally, it is noted that claims 5 and 6 (which were incorporated into claim 1) and claim 9 (which was redundant to claim 8) have been canceled.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are now in condition for immediate allowance.

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In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

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If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

/Douglas Holtz/

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